

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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TO USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOVE, PFOR, GE, WB, US

SUBJECT: PRESS QUERY ON AMERICAN CITIZEN HELD IN GDR

1. INS FILE ON STEINER LOCATED AFTER SOME DELAY IN SAN-FRANCISCO. WHILE IT CONTAINS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET REVIEWED, INS OFFICER STATES THAT STEINER RECEIVED AN IMMIGRANT VISA FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HAMBURG ON MARCH 25, 1963 AND HAD ALIEN REGIS-

TRATION NR. A-13-435-178. STEINER WAS NATURALIZED MAY 7, 1971 (CERTIFICATE NR. 940-7988). INS OFFICER INDICATED FILE WOULD BE FORWARDED TO INS WASHINGTON FOR DEPARTMENT REVIEW.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE ON IF ASKED BASIS BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN:

BEGIN TEXT. ON SEPTEMBER 27, OUR MISSION IN BERLIN WAS INFORMED BY A WEST BERLIN ATTORNEY, UELO SALM, THAT AN CONFIDENTIAL

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AMERICAN CITIZEN, ANDREAS ALFRED STEINER, HAD BEEN AR-

RESTED SOME TIME THE PREVIOUS MONTH IN EAST BERLIN AND CHARGED WITH ATTEMPTING TO SMUGGLE A POLISH CITIZEN OUT OF EAST BERLIN IN HIS CAR. THE SPECIFIC CHARGE IS REPORTED TO BE "STAATSFEINDLICHER MENSCHENHANDEL" WHICH TRANSLATES ROUGHLY AS "SUBVERSIVE TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS."

"THROUGH APPROACHES TO SOVIET OFFICIALS IN EAST BERLIN WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM STEINER'S DETENTION; HAVE BEEN ASSURED HIS ATTORNEY WILL HAVE ACCESS TO HIM IN PRISON, AND UNDERSTAND HIS TRIAL HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE LATTER PART OF NOVEMBER.

"WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO GUARANTEE THAT MR. STEINER'S RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED AND THAT HE IS GIVEN FAIR AND HUMANE TREATMENT.

"ANDREAS ALFRED STEINER WAS BORN IN POLAND JULY 31, 1941. HIS LAST KNOWN US ADDRESS WAS GIVEN AS 1512 LA PLAYA AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. STEINER'S PARENTS, MR AND MRS. VIKTOR STEINER, RESIDE IN A SUBURB OF HANNOVER, WEST GERMANY.

"IF ASKED WHY WE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BY THE SOVIETS OF STEINER'S ARREST AT AN EARLIER DATE, YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING:

"THE SOVIET OFFICIALS CONFIRMED HIS DETENTION ON SEPTEMBER 20. WE DO NOT KNOW WHY THE SOVIETS FAILED TO ADVISE US EARLIER OF STEINER'S ARREST, BUT WE HAVE OFFICIALLY COMPLAINED TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT THEIR FAILURE TO DO SO.

"IF ASKED IF THE ADVISEMENT BY THE WEST GERMAN LAWYER WAS THE FIRST WORD WE HAD HAD OF STEINER'S ARREST, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT IN MID-AUGUST, STEINER'S MOTHER HAD ASKED US CONSULAR OFFICERS TO ASSIST IN LOCATING HER SON WHO HAD FAILED TO RETURN FROM EAST BERLIN FOLLOWING A VISIT THERE. THE MISSION HAD INQUIRED ABOUT STEINER THROUGH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN A ROUTINE WAY, BUT RECEIVED CONFIDENTIAL

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NO INFORMATION OF HIS WHEREABOUTS UNTIL WE WERE NOTIFIED BY ATTORNEY SALM. END TEXT. RUSH

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